

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 186647
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-09 EB-08
CEQ-01 EPA-04 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00 FEA-01 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
COME-00 H-02 L-03 ERDA-07 INT-05 NSF-02 PM-05
SP-02 /099 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP:GKINTER
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DRKING
EUR/NE:CWSCHALLER
COAST GUARD:CMDR. COSTELLO
-----040216 082306Z /70
O R 082235Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
COMDT COAST GUARD
JCS
SECDEF (ISA)
CNO
CSAF

UNCLAS STATE 186647

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, DA, GL

SUBJECT: USNS POTOMAC OIL SPILL

REF: COPENHAGEN 4691

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON ACTION BEING TAKEN TO DEAL
WITH USNS POTOMAC OIL SPILL PROVIDED BY COAST GUARD:

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SIX MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD'S ATLANTIC
STRIKE TEAM FROM ELIZABETH CITY, NORTH CAROLINA, WILL
ARRIVE AT THULE, GREENLAND, THIS AFTERNOON (AUGUST 8) TO
ASSIST THE NAVY IN RESPONDING TO A MAJOR OIL SPILL IN
BAFFIN BAY 180 MILES SOUTHEAST OF THULE. THE 107,000
GALLON SPILL OCCURRED EARLY FRIDAY MORNING WHEN THE USNS

POTOMAC SUSTAINED HULL DAMAGE WHILE FOLLOWING THE COAST GUARD CUTTER WESTWIND THROUGH ICE IN DENSE FOG EN ROUTE TO THULE AIR BASE. ALSO ON BOARD THE COAST GUARD C-130 AIRCRAFT, EQUIPPED WITH A NEW AIRBORNE OIL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (AOSS), WAS A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE NAVY'S MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND AND A NAVY SALVAGE EXPERT. A SURVEY FLIGHT WILL BE FLOWN OVER THE SCENE BEFORE THE C-130 LANDS AT THULE TODAY. THE AOSS, WHICH BECAME OPERATIONAL

ON THE EAST COAST TWO MONTHS AGO, EMPLOYS A SIDELOOKING RADAR AND A PASSIVE MICROWAVE IMAGER TO DETECT AND MAP SPILLS WITHIN A 25-MILE WIDE SWATH ALONG THE AIRCRAFT FLIGHT PATH. THESE SENSORS PROVIDE THE AOSS WITH DAY OR NIGHT OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES IN ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS. TWO OTHER SENSORS PROVIDE AOSS WITH AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHIC AND DOCUMENTATION CAPABILITY.

AFTER THE EXTENT OF THE SPILL HAS BEEN DETERMINED, THE ATLANTIC STRIKE TEAM AND THE NAVY SALVAGE REPRESENTATIVE WILL RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE CONTAINMENT AND CLEAN-UP MEASURES. UNQUOTE

2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES STATEMENT RESPONSIVE TO CONCERNS EXPRESSED REFTTEL, BUT IT WILL KEEP EMBASSY FULLY ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OIL SPILLS, NAVAL SHIPS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE186647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: GKINTER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770285-0373
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770884/aaaactir.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1671319
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USNS POTOMAC OIL SPILL
TAGS: SENV, DA, GL, US, CG
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Type: TE
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